

مكة ١٠ ربيع الأول ١٣٩٩

Net resumes oil transit thru Syria
D. Feb. 9 (R)—Iraq will resume pumping its oil to the west through Syria under an agreement signed today, the Agency (INA) reported. Iraq stopped using the Syrian oil exports in April, 1976, after relations between the two countries deteriorated. The date of resumed pumping were not disclosed. The volume of exports of Iraqi crude to Syria. The volume of exports of Iraqi crude to Syria. The volume of exports of Iraqi crude to Syria.

JORDAN TIMES

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جورن تايمز يوميه سياسي تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية «الراي»

Tito's closest aide is seriously ill
BELGRADE, Feb. 9 (R)—Mr. Edvard Kardelj, Yugoslav President Tito's closest aide is seriously ill in hospital and not responding to intensive medical treatment, his senior doctors said today. Mr. Kardelj, 69, chief theorist of Yugoslavia's independent style of socialism, was regarded until recently as President Tito's most likely successor. He has been ill for a long time, but his condition worsened yesterday when he was placed in the intensive care unit at a hospital in Ljubljana, northwest Yugoslavia. The doctors said Mr. Kardelj's health "continues to be serious and he is not getting any better despite intensive treatment." President Tito, 86, is on a tour of the Middle East. He is due to start a four-day official visit to Jordan on Saturday.

Price: Jordan 50 fils; Syria 50 piastres; Lebanon 75 piastres; Saudi Arabia 1 riyal; UAE: dirham; Great Britain 25 pence.

FLP acknowledges Palestinian ranks' split
D. Feb. 9 (R)—A hardline FLP group, acknowledging the head of the Palestinian ranks, today who stood down fresh talks on unifying the 37-year-old commando force which has gone so far as to increase its rank and file to increase its rank and file to increase its rank and file.

gates' recall demanded attempt to save Bhutto
D. Feb. 9 (R)—Supporters of condemned former Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto today demanded the recall of two judges from the Supreme Court for the last stage of his legal battle to clear his name.

Kosygin to visit India next month
NEW DELHI, Feb. 9 (R)—Soviet Prime Minister Alexei Kosygin will visit India early next month, the Foreign Ministry announced today.

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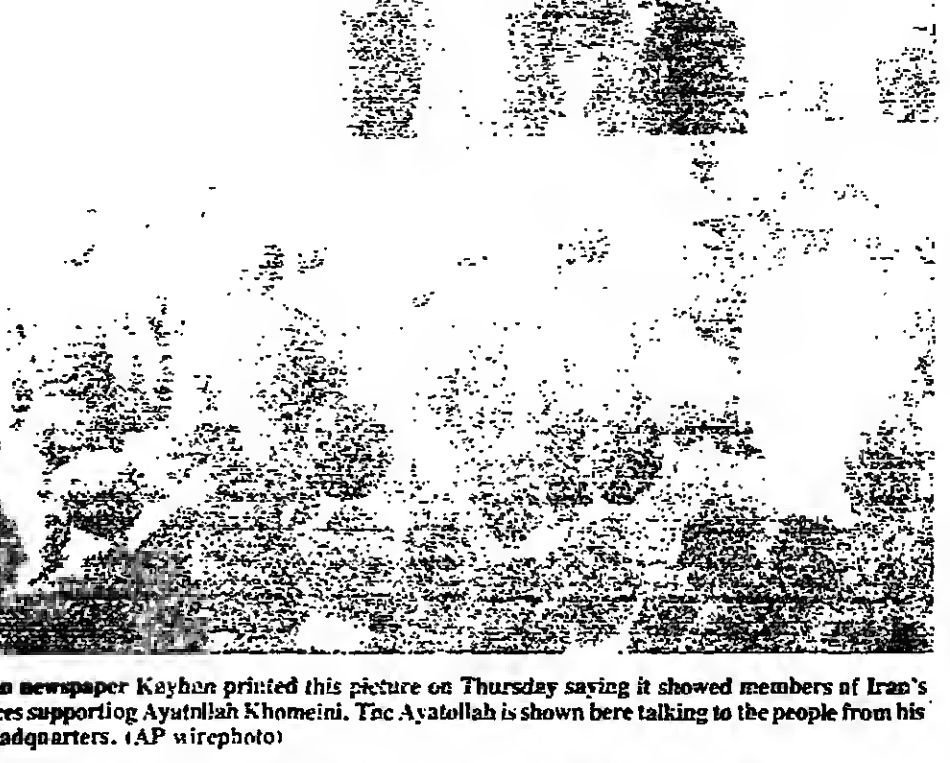
Arab exposes Israeli torture
BEIRUT, Feb. 9 (R)—A Lebanese released yesterday by Israel was quoted today as accusing Israeli interrogators of torturing him during his 11 months in captivity.

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The Tehran newspaper Keyhan printed this picture on Thursday saying it showed members of Iran's armed forces supporting Ayatollah Khomeini. The Ayatollah is shown here talking to the people from his Tehran headquarters. (AP wirephoto)

Sadat celebrates Mawled, has no comment on talks

ABU ATWA, Egypt, Feb. 9 (R)—Egyptian President Anwar Sadat took time off from his peace efforts with Israel today to celebrate religious festivals in a rural village which resisted a tank assault during the 1973 Middle East war.

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Bazargan: peaceful Iran crisis solution

TEHRAN, Feb. 9 (R)—Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's provisional premier today outlined a peaceful solution to the Iranian crisis but insisted that his Shah-appointed rival must resign.

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Brown's tour seen as 'too little, too late' example

WASHINGTON, Feb. 9 (R)—U.S. Defence Secretary Harold Brown flies to the Middle East today to reassure allies of the United States that it remains committed to the stability of the Gulf region despite the turmoil in Iran.

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ANKS AND APPRECIATION

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Consult the people

THE EYES OF THE WORLD are on Iran, awaiting the birth of a fledgling democracy, the outbreak of a monstrous civil war, or the creation of an Islamic republic. The three alternatives are not necessarily mutually exclusive.

The apprehension that has gripped many world capitals is due to the fact that regardless of how the scales tip, the outcome is a big unknown. The idea of an Islamic republic, in particular, is shrouded in mystery. For many Westerners, the notion evokes images of public floggings, the amputation of hands, the stoning of adulterers and a prohibition on the sale of alcoholic drinks.

If the followers of Ayatollah Khomeini fancy that the ills of industrial society can be cured by segregating men from women in the factories, herding people into mosques like sheep or punishing those who do not fast during Ramadan, then they are in for a rude shock. Nor will burning Iran's bridges with the West solve the country's problems.

If, on the other hand, ideas have been crystallising in Khomeini's mind during the long years of exile, if he has an alternative to the consumer society and to economic growth as an end in itself, then by all means let's hear it. An Islamic state need not be synonymous with a list of prohibitions. If he has devised a way to combat the phenomenon of alienation that is now dominant in industrialised societies and to inject meaning into work on the assembly line, if he has goals for people to work for other than changing the system of government in Iran, then he owes it to the Iranian people to announce his ideas before holding the referendum that the head of his shadow cabinet, Mr. Mehdi Bazargan, is now advocating.

The concept of an Islamic system of banking is already being explored and financial institutions are being set up in Arab countries to function on the basis of sharing profits rather than charging interest on loans. If an Islamic republic can evolve a new economic system, with its own brand of social relations and its own tenets of human rights, based on the teachings of Islam, then it could be a momentous contribution. But the Iranian people should not be asked to buy a big unknown.

Khomeini's autocratic demeanor has aroused fears that an Islamic republic might spell dictatorship. Yet verbal intransigence is preferable to the language of the gun. Khomeini's followers have been remarkably peaceful, his "revolution" has been based on civil disobedience rather than guerrilla warfare and acts of violence; the record of his movement is almost pristine to date. If that is an indication of things to come, then the world might be in for a pleasant surprise.

Without being overly sanguine, one must note that both Mr. Bazargan and Iran's Prime Minister, Mr. Shahpour Bakhtiar, have latched on to an idea that might be the salvation of the country from the ravages of civil war. Mr. Bazargan is speaking of elections for a constituent assembly and a parliament after the proposed referendum, and Mr. Bakhtiar is also advocating free elections—although not for the immediate future—to determine the fate of Iran. While one must be forgiven a dose of scepticism in the face of such lofty dedication to democracy, it remains true that to consult the people is the best solution: if democracy prevails, then Iran, and the whole world, will be better off for the experience. But to put it off for too long may well spell disaster.

ARAB PRESS COMMENTARY

As a descendant of the great Prophet of Islam, His Majesty King Hussein in his opportune speech Thursday wanted to remind us that our nation is in need of a comprehensive intellectual and spiritual renaissance to govern our march forward and steer us on the road to development and progress. AL RA'I says in an editorial Friday. The King was speaking on the occasion of Prophet Muhammad's birthday.

The Arab Nation today faces dreadful challenges of various kinds as well as a fierce onslaught by forces of unfaithfulness and demoralisation. By its geographical position and vast natural resources it represents a target for hostile and ferocious forces, notably the expansionist Zionist movement embodied by the Israeli entity, the newspaper says.

Al Ra'i calls on the Arab Nation, "before anybody else, to thwart these challenges and make its divine ideology a basis for a national awakening on the road to prosperity, social justice and a brighter future."

AL DUSTOUR stresses King Hussein's remarks that Jordan is deeply rooted in the high ideals of the great Arab Revolution led by his great grandfather King Hussein Ibn Ali. Jordan, therefore is mented and qualified to become a beacon projecting the King's "historic" call which ought to be fully understood and responded to by the Arabs and Muslims in order that they play their role in civilisation-making and have an effective weight in warding off the calamities that threaten our contemporary world, the newspaper writes.

GOT SOMETHING ON
YOUR MIND?

LET THE JORDAN TIMES HEAR ABOUT

IT

WRITE TO: P.O. BOX 6710

Amman foreign high school students learn by correspondence in a basement, and enjoy it

By Thomas Cromwell
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN—What is a basement that is a school, but isn't, that has students but no teacher, desks but no blackboard, courses but no classes, a co-ed basketball team with no court, and yet produces a newsletter and graduates?

You may not have guessed it, but it's the Amman correspondence High School, located in its third home since it was begun in September, 1975, in the basement of the home of Colonel Thompson, the military attache at the U.S. embassy. The desks are occupied by 11 students from four nations who are studying individual programmes on the way to getting their high school diplomas.

The high school was set up to fill the educational gap left by the American Community School which only provides instruction through the ninth grade. Before its organisation there was no local provision for high school students. They would either have to go abroad to boarding schools, enroll in local high schools or take correspondence courses individually. Now they have the advantage of working together in a school-like environment, receiving instruction and guidance.

The first effort for a correspondence high school was made at the American Community School where, in 1975, a small storage room was set aside for the first two students. A larger room at the school was found

lomas to living students. In addition, administering the tests (which may be as many as ten per course plus a final exam). Mrs. Dobler sets deadlines for the students. She makes sure they keep up with their lessons which should include two to three hours homework daily, and she gives as much personal help with the courses as she is able to.

Mrs. Dobler enjoys her work. "When I started I thought it would be like babysitting with a bunch of kids. Now I really enjoy it. The students always come and generally work hard."

One reason for good attendance is the close social contact they get from studying together. "They are very tight," Mrs. Dobler explained.

To develop this aspect of the school, several activities have been organised with more planned in the future. The whole group has gone on field trips to the Hotel Training School, Jordan Radio and TV, RSS, Alia Catering at the airport, the U.S. Embassy (where they met the ambassador), and the UNRWA medical clinic at a Palestinian camp.

They enjoy these trips a lot. "Besides a break, we feel this is something they need to know about the country they're living in. It's part of their education," Mrs. Dobler pointed out.

Also, the students often meet for parties or go to discos together. Some of them square dance once or twice a week. They have put on dances at a couple of occasions and tried to generate wider interest. Some of them have part time jobs.

The hottest development, however, is the basketball team, called the AHS UNOS after the name of a card game popular at the school and because it means No. 1. Their bright red, white and blue uniforms were donated by a foreign company with offices in Amman. Their first contest, against the American Community School team, the Eagles, was a great success, a 41-35 win. The four boys and two girls on the team, coached by Jordanian Emad Faroun, are presently looking for more teams to beat.

Nearly all the students have done at least part of their high school work in other countries. "Most would like to be able to finish at a regular high school. We miss the activities and social life of a normal high school."

On the other hand, the education is very good. Each student must cover all the material in each course because the exam will be set on it. "Since there is no teacher, there is no reduction in material and no favouritism," Mrs. Dobler said. "The system requires the student to take personal responsibility for his work. This is good preparation for college where the same system prevails."

Students agreed with this view: "We get a lot more done and learned because we have to."

The least amount of time to complete a one semester course is five weeks. The maximum is two years. Normally, two semesters are completed a year, each with four or five courses. Each course completed earns five credits. A minimum of 180 credits are needed to graduate. Courses cost U.S. \$33. Tuition and book costs for one year usually amount to U.S. \$350 to \$400.

The students' parents divide the expense of the Amman school, mainly Mrs. Dobler's salary, equally among themselves in the form of tuition. In this way, costs are kept at a minimum.

Students are able to take college board tests like the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) at the American Centre for Oriental Research. Last year an AHS student scored 740 out of 800 in the SAT mathematics exam. He was one of two who graduated last year. Two more will graduate this



Amman Correspondence High School students smiling up. Their supervisor, Mrs. Dobler, is on the left.



The unbeaten UNOS. Back row: (from left) Nimr, Stan, Emad (the coach), Cheryl and Ramzy. In front: Hanneka and Alex.

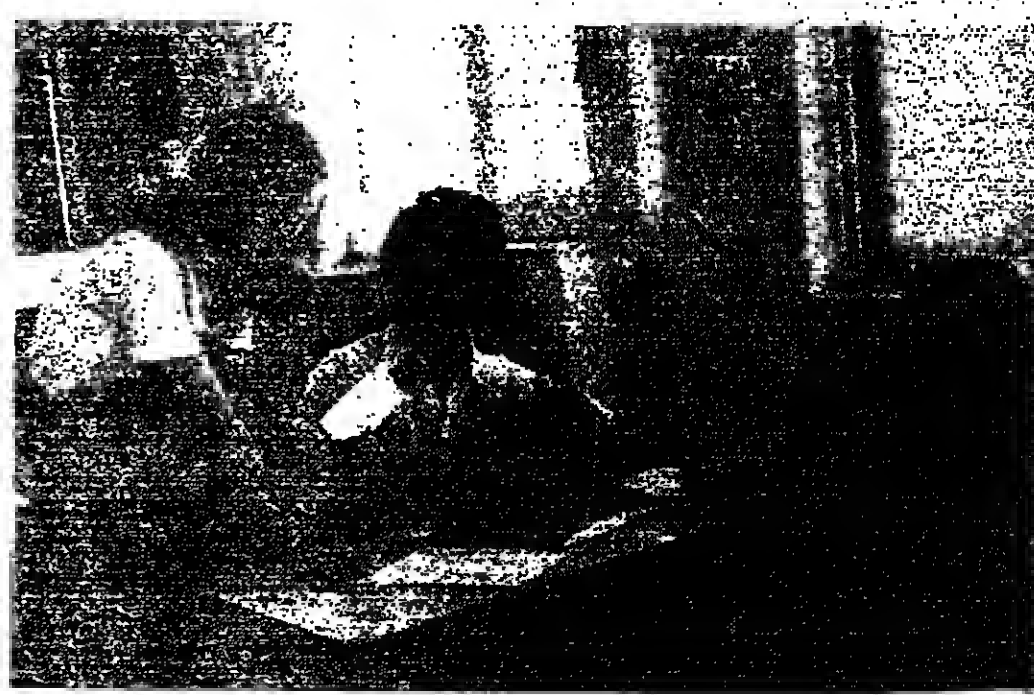
year. One of them has already been accepted at George Washington University in Washington, D.C.

As Mrs. Dobler says, "These good results say something about the system. I wouldn't hesitate to put my own children here as opposed to a boarding school. Having one to one contact becomes an advantage."

With the troubles in Beirut, the American community school there has stopped taking boarding students. This means there is no high school in the whole region where American families in Jordan can send their children. The alternative has usually been to send them to boarding schools in the United States. This is expensive and parents don't like to be so distant from their children. Jordan's lack of a high school has prevented many foreign personnel from taking positions here.

Several efforts to open a normal high school have always been frustrated, Mrs. Dobler explained: "It needs a grant or loan to begin. After a couple of years tuition would support it."

At any rate, for now it is AHS that provides the alternative to boarding schools. As the planned



Students often help one another: (from left) Hannek is from Holland, Omar from Pakistan, and from America.

yearbook (The Basement Book?) is likely to show, the present school is as the students concur: "at least a good change and experience."



Somebody's a rabbit and doesn't know it.

WHAT'S GOING ON

Art Exhibit

An exhibition of paintings by Mohammad Moustafa is on at the Art Gallery, Ministry of Culture and Youth, open from a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and 4:00 to 7:00 p.m.

German Art Exhibit

The Goethe Institute presents a photographic survey of German contemporary art entitled "Photography as Documentation." Open during regular hours. Last day today.

Painting and Drawing Exhibit

An exhibition of paintings and drawings by Amman artists is on display at the American Centre. Open from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. ending today.

French Film

The French Cultural Centre presents a film by Robert Bresson entitled "Mouchette" at 7:30 p.m. French version with subtitles.

Enjoy Christmas-Scene

for the Jordan Times by Pat McDonnell

(Week of Feb. 10-16)

EXHIBITS

Feb. 12: An exhibition featuring the works of Syrian artist Nana opens for one week at the Soviet Cultural Centre.

FEB. 14: The French Cultural Centre has done it and less than a month of presenting an exhibition of Damascene artist Nazir Ismael. It is staging a one-man exhibition by Turki Mahmud Bey. A 6:30 p.m. reception will be held.

of Deir Ez-Zor, Mr. Mahmud Bey lived in West of 16 years and studied painting and architecture at Academie Kunst Hochschule. His style can only be described as "Modern Arabesque". Mr. Mahmud Bey has a unique technique of mixing oil and acrylics to render a soft, almost baroque in their richness of detail. His works are almost baroque in their richness of detail by ornate copper and brass frames. His favourite style is stylized Arabic calligraphy and impressionistic.

in the desert; I paint the people I know from the Deir Ez-Zor—the bedouin," he said. "I refuse to paint landscapes dominated by a mosque, yet I rely heavily on my ethnic background and perception of it."

ords come true as the viewer gazes upon ceramic porcelaine large-breasted women in an imaginary geometrical or looks at a canvas full of abstracted Arabic calligraphy is actual verse from the Koran.

view the world as a Westerner; I try to borrow from the East, Egypt, Persia, India, China," he said. I portray the world, not as the lens of a camera does. Nonetheless, I'm looking into the past, I'm merely taking the best elements of the past and joining it with contemporary art techniques."

Mahmud Bey's works hang in the Baghdad Museum of Art and in the Syrian embassies of Washington, D.C., Paris, Rabat and Baghdad. The exhibition will continue at the Soviet Cultural Centre. Hours: 10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.; 4:30 - 7:30 p.m.

THURSDAY: "Artists from the Panorama of Etching and Engraving" exhibition featuring the works of Farid Jorjoss at Al Kabbani Theatre, Feb. 16. The exhibition is sponsored by the Damascus Fine Arts Syndicate. Hours: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. daily.

CONCERTS

FEB. 13: An evening of Chopin with Prof. Hanni will be presented at 6 p.m. at the German Democratic Cultural Centre.

THURSDAY, Feb. 14: A piano recital by Peter Cooper performs works of Bach, Scarlatti, Beethoven, Rachmaninoff, and Scriabin is slated for 8:30 p.m. at Al Kabbani Theatre. The pianist is in Syria under auspices of the British Council.

FEB. 15: The Brass Quartet of the Bamberg Symphony of West Germany will perform classical and modern works at 8:30 p.m. at Al Kabbani Theatre. The quartet consists of trumpeters Horst Karl Schuster and trombonists Willibald Soldner and Hans-Joachim Schuster. In addition to its famed recording, "Brass Quartet," the quartet is renowned for several film appearances on TV. The programme includes: Albenberg, Couperin, Peurt, Barthelmes, and Händel. The concert is under auspices of the Ministry of Music and the West German Cultural Centre.

FEB. 15: Beethoven compositions will be performed by Russian pianist Valentin Belchenko in the Soviet Cultural Centre. Dr. Samir Daher will open the programme at 6 p.m. at the Music Salon.

THEATRE

THURSDAY, Feb. 10: The Damascus Theatre Group will perform "The Comedy of Errors" at 8 p.m. at the Damascus Community School. The play was written by James Elroy Flecker, a British dramatist who served as a consul in Beirut during the 1920s. The play is set in Baghdad during the 12th century. As it develops, it evolves from a comedy into a moving tragedy. Bob Straker-Cook is the show starring Dennis Michaud as Hassan, Jim as Caliph Haroun Al Rashid, Yvonne Grimes as Yasmin, and Jean Hankins as Perivah.

THURSDAY: The National Theatre of Syria is going into its 10th of Mamdukh Adwan's version of "Man of La Mancha" starring Zuhair Koutis as Don Quixote. Performances are at 8:30 p.m. except Friday at Al Hamra Theatre. Tharrah as Dulcinea, Abdu Salam Al Taib is Sancho. The director is the musical-orchestration and lighting have been pre-recorded (in Arabic).

VIDEO-TAPED PROGRAMME

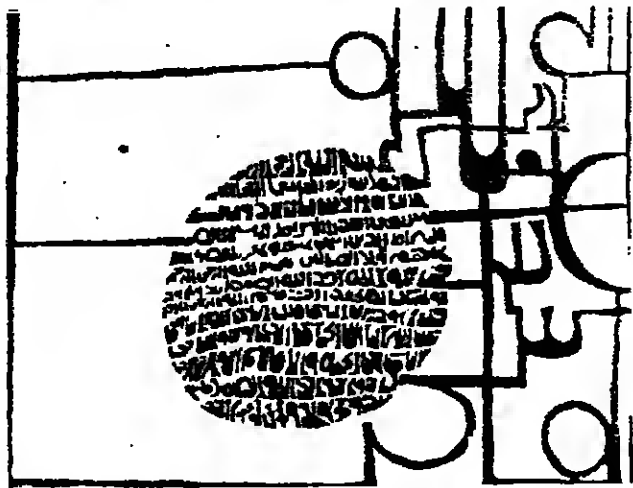
FEB. 16: "Moliere", Part I will be presented at 6:30 and 8:30 p.m. at the French Cultural Centre (in French).

ENTERTAINMENT

FEB. 11: Petite songstress-comedienne Annie Belgeon starts a three-week run at the rooftop supper club of the Meridien Hotel. A fine singer in her own inimitable style, Ms. Duparc excels at imitations of such notables as Marlene Dietrich. Her takeoff on the singing of Edith Piaf is dramatised by dark lights and costumes identical to those worn by Piaf. No sooner does she have the audience sighing for "La Piaf," than she switches to a light-hearted impersonation of Charlie Chaplin. Ms. Duparc is backed by the music of Ignazio Di Lietto who will appear on Damascus TV at 7:45 p.m. Sunday on Mouna Kuri's "Stars and Light Show." In the nearby rooftop bar, Aldo and Jacqueline entertain with an international repertoire of ballads.



"Three Sisters of Deir Ez-Zor" titles this oil painting in metallic blues, gold, aqua and electric pink by Turki Mahmud Bey.



A sun of stylized Arabic calligraphy is in the foreground of a geometric Syrian cityscape by Turki Mahmud Bey.



Mr. Turki Mahmud Bey

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FILMS

SATURDAY, Feb. 10 and MONDAY, Feb. 12: "Les Etiles de Midi," a film directed by Marcel Ichac starring Lionel TERRY and Roger BLO, is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. at the French Cultural Centre (in French, Arabic sub-titles).

SUNDAY, Feb. 11: "The Place of the Crime in Berlin" is the title of a film to be shown at 6:30 p.m. at the German Democratic Republic Cultural Centre (in German, Arabic sub-titles).

MONDAY, Feb. 12: "The Demise of a Poet" will be shown at 6 p.m. at the Soviet Cultural Centre (in Russian, Arabic sub-titles).

MONDAY, Feb. 12 and TUESDAY, Feb. 13: Two colour British literature films, "Shakespeare" and "This Unworthy Scaffold", will be shown at 7:30 p.m. at the new corner premises of the British Cultural Centre Library. Tickets must be obtained in advance from the cultural centre from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, Feb. 14: "The First and Last Day" will be shown at 6 p.m. at the Soviet Cultural Centre (in Russian, Arabic sub-titles).

THURSDAY, Feb. 15: "Sept Morts sur Ordonance" directed by Jacques Rouffio starring Michel Piccoli, Gerard Depardieu and Marina Vlady, is slated for 7:30 p.m. at the French Cultural Centre (in French, Arabic sub-titles).

FRIDAY, Feb. 16: "A Bar in Biadynskaya Street" will be shown at 6 p.m. at the Soviet Cultural Centre (in Russian, Arabic sub-titles).

Jordan to get ILO help for labour data bank

By Serene R. Farraj
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN--The International Labour Organisation (ILO) has vowed to send administrative and financial experts to Jordan to help the country establish its social security institute.

The agreement was reached recently during a visit of ILO Secretary General Francis Blanchard to Jordan, Minister of Labour Issam Ajlouni told the Jordan Times in a recent interview.

To assist Jordan's new social security institute in carrying out its duties, and to provide information useful in establishing vocational training centres, a labour data bank will be set up with the help of the ILO.

Three experts will also be sent to Jordan by the ILO to help the ministry of labour establish the labour data bank which will conduct research on the distribution of manpower in the Arab World to help gear training more closely to the actual needs of society," Mr. Ajlouni said.

The data bank is still incomplete but will be ready to operate by the time the social security institute begins to function.

The Ministry of Labour has already begun collecting information on labour as well as constructing a wage index with the help of the Central Bank. Statistics are being compiled on the number and specialisations of Jordanians working here and abroad.

Also discussed during Mr. Blanchard's visit was the "possibility of setting up a regional vocational training centre which would conduct research on manpower," Mr. Ajlouni said, "and formulate model programmes for vocational training institutes in the Arab countries. It was agreed in principle that Jordan would sponsor a draft resolution on this subject at the meeting of the Arab Labour Organisation to be held in Khartoum this March." The resolution would be presented to the ILO conference in Geneva later this year.

It was agreed the ILO will help to set up six vocational training centres at an estimated minimum cost of JD 6 million. "The European Common Market, United States and Soviet Union will each provide technical trainers and equipment for two centres, Mr. Ajlouni said.

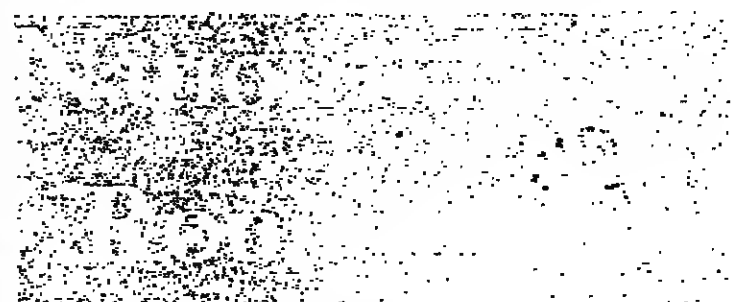
Cooperation between the Ministry of Labour and the ILO covers extensive labour as well as social development. The ILO has helped to set up a Women's Department within the Ministry of Labour and through the Department of Social Affairs in the ministry has helped to establish a centre

King Hussein visits Queen Alia's tomb

AMMAN, Feb. 9 (JNA)-- His Majesty King Hussein today visited the tomb of the late Queen Alia on the second anniversary of her death and recited verses of the Quran.

The King, accompanied by the Commander-in-Chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces Lt. Gen. Sharif Zeid Ibn Shaker, later visited the commemorative monument erected on the spot where the Queen died in a helicopter crash two years ago.

theoretical stage, Mr. Ajlouni said, to discussions of the best methods of implementation. The purpose of the labour body is to draw resources from labour importing countries and channel them into developing labour exporting countries in proportion to the estimated costs due to loss of labour.



Jordanian team to attend meeting in South Korea

AMMAN, Feb. 9 (JNA)-- Jordan is to take part in the meeting of the legal advisory committee for Asian and African countries which will open in South Korea on Feb. 19. According to a decision by the Cabinet, the Under-Secretary of the Ministry of Justice Han Rifa'i will lead the two-man delegation to the week-long meeting.

Canadian delegation visits Martyr's Monument

AMMAN, Feb. 9 (JNA)--The visiting delegation from the National Defence College of Canada today paid a visit to the Martyr's Monument. Touring the various sections of the monument the delegation was acquainted with the history of the Jordanian Armed Forces.

TODAY'S WEATHER

A low depression centred in Cyprus is moving eastward causing cloudy and rainy weather with a chance of thunderstorms in the southern region. Winds will be southwesterly moderate to fresh. In Amman it will be partly cloudy with thunder showers and southerly fresh winds changing gradually to northerly moderate. Seas will be rough.

Temperatures:	Overnight minimum	Daytime maximum
Amman	6	10
Aqaba	10	16
Jordan Valley	11	16
Deserts	5	12

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Buchan's multifarious talents

By Keith Brace

John Buchan, the once immensely popular Scottish writer of adventure stories who became Governor General of Canada, has recently come back into the public eye—39 years after his death in 1940.

A recent BBC television serial of his novel, "Huntingtower", and a new cinema version—the third—with Robert Powell as the hero, Richard Hannay, of his famous spy story, "The 39 Steps", will have introduced a new generation to a writer whose books once swept the English-speaking world. Not that Buchan has ever been entirely forgotten. His books continue to be borrowed from public libraries, and several exist in print in hardback and paperback.

These readers were once young people going through a phase of reading Buchan's energetic, down-right adventure novels, before going on, possibly, to the more subtle and poetic writing of his historical novels, and to his lucid, strongly written biographies of Cromwell, Montrose, Caesar Augustus and Walter Scott.

Today he is more likely to be middle-aged or elderly, finding in

With the production by the BBC of a television serial of his novel, "Huntingtower", and yet another film version of his great spy story "The 39 Steps", the works of the Scottish novelist, biographer and statesman John Buchan are enjoying a new wave of interest.

Buchan a nostalgic pleasure in stories about decisive men of action, outwitting corrupt (though courageous) enemies, and a longing for days when a writer could let his heroes range through a whole empire in their battles against evil.

John Buchan was born in 1875, the son of Scottish nonconformist minister, and educated at the universities of Glasgow and Oxford. In 1901 he became a barrister and later private secretary to Lord Milner, Britain's High Commissioner in South Africa, just after the Boer War. This experience gave Buchan a life-long sense of the exciting possibilities, as he thought, of the British Empire as a power for good.

He returned to England to become a publisher, a Member of Parliament, a peer of the realm,

and finally a popular Governor General of Canada, where he died in office, aged 65.

During his time in Canada he became a confidant of President Franklin Roosevelt and he is thought to have had some role in persuading the president to make an open declaration of support for the Western countries in the event of war with Nazi Germany.

Despite his busy public and private life, Buchan wrote more than 100 books, among them "Prester John" (1910), about a mythical ruler of Ethiopia; "Huntingtower" (1922); "The Thirty-Nine Steps" (1915); "Greenmantle" (1916); and "The Three Hostages" (1924). His life of Cromwell (1934) keeps its relevance as a sympathetic study of the most controversial figure in

British history.

Buchan was in the news again in 1975 when the 100th anniversary of his birth was marked by many appreciative comments—and by some hostile ones. For Buchan, very much a man of his self-confident, enterprising epoch in British history, has always been a figure of controversy.

He has been linked with novelist contemporaries such as "Sapper", Dornford Yates and Rafael Sabatini, and condemned as a jingoistic, reactionary writer unacceptable to the modern liberal.

Others have refuted the reactionary image and found in him a much deeper writer than his popular reputation suggests: a Calvinistic Lowland Scottish writer, in the tradition of Walter Scott and Robert Louis Stevenson, charting the frontier at which, as Buchan often said and wrote, the thin defences of civilisation crumble.

Charges of aggressive imperialism have been answered by his impeccable views on the Commonwealth and its peoples when he was Governor General of Canada, and by the fact that he was able to give a dignified picture of Kaiser Wilhelm II during the anti-German hysteria of 1914-18.

The reality was that Buchan was an average man of his time and position in society, sharing his prejudices and ambitions without worrying too much about them. His interest for us today is that he was a characteristic writer of his period—which we can recapture through his books—as well as, arguably, as a writer of permanent value.

Like other writers of the time, and with his Calvinistic background, he saw life as a difficult journey, beset with trials and dangers. But he tended to see that journey as one to a better and sharper understanding of the human predicament and to a stoical acceptance of it, rather than as a journey to a reformed society, as

the political writers of the 1930s would have seen it.

He saw the world as Manichean, in a perpetual conflict of light and dark, with his heroes forsaking their comfortable London clubs and cosy suburban villas to do battle with international villains in dark places, using unlikely allies, such as apparently effete young army officers, or the Glasgow slum boys in "Huntingtower".

The two worlds did not prove to be the decisive victories of light over dark that Buchan had

John Buchan, the Scottish novelist, biographer and statesman, whose stories are enjoying a new wave of popularity. Buchan, who died in 1940, was created Baron Tweedsmuir in 1935 and became Governor General of Canada.



Robert Powell as the character hero Richard Hannay in the latest film version of John Buchan's "The 39 Steps". Buchan wrote his famous spy adventure story in 1915.



Elephant that transplants

LONDON—Transplanting trees was done in the hanging gardens of Babylon where, it is believed, elephants were used to haul trees out of the ground and then carry them to their new spot. A British company has recently introduced its own 'technological elephant' that will dig out a tree and its roots in a simple, efficient and easily transportable form... all in a few minutes. Called the 'Tree-Porter', the equipment is placed around the root of a tree and a series of toughened steel curved blades are forced hydraulically around the tree's root-ball in the shape of half a sphere. When the root is totally encircled blades are locked together and the complete tree and roots are

then lifted by a panning vehicle and ported intact to a site. Here, the tree is hoisted into its new hole, blades recovered for use. The equipment is compact and ball seven sizes ranging from 80 cm to 2 metres in diameter determine number of blades. It will dig a row as close as one metre and the edge of a can be within 50 cm of another tree or The 'Tree-Porter' is supplied with an initial blade of two blades permitting up to 8 t dug and transported single load. (Cena of Information)

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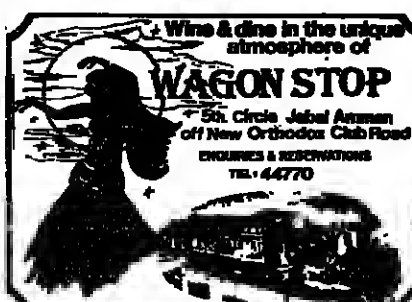
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Carter tries to stem conflicting reports on government policy

WASHINGTON, Feb. 9 (R)—President Carter, worried that impromptu statements by administration officials might cause misunderstandings about his policies at home and abroad, has called in his top men to demand their loyalty—and apparently told them to stop squabbling.

But while the White House disclosed last night that Mr. Carter was trying to crack down on unauthorized statements, two of his senior ministers were at loggerheads over the energy situation caused by the Iranian oil crisis.

And outspoken U.N. Ambassador Andrew Young earned himself an official rebuke for telling reporters that Iranian Moslem leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini might eventually be regarded as a saint.

Presidential spokesman Jody Powell's announcement that Mr. Carter has held a series of meetings with his chief advisers over the last few days followed press reports of policy conflicts between the White House and the State Department.

The Washington Post reported: "One of the White House meetings appeared to some of those present to reflect growing concern that reports of differences between Secretary of State Vance and National Security Adviser Zbigniew Brzezinski are creating the impression of an administration that is divided and indecisive."

The newspaper said Mr. Carter had ordered top ranking State Department officials to "silence dissent that could spill over into public view."

Department spokesman Hodding Carter said that Secretary of State Cyrus Vance and senior foreign policy officials had attended one of the meetings with the president.

Foreign policy problems were discussed and Mr. Carter "asked for support from the department in all aspects of the process," the spokesman said.

Both Mr. Powell and spokesman Carter insisted that the President was not out to silence his officials or stop dissent. The president, Mr. Powell said, was concerned not about the number of leaks "but by the number of inaccuracies."

Mr. Vance later told reporters Mr. Carter was not trying to muzzle or gag State Department and other officials from speaking to the press. "He was just expressing some of his concerns to us about various matters and asking our help and cooperation," he said.

Top officials at odds

But in Congress, Treasury Secretary Michael Blumenthal accused Energy Secretary James Schlesinger of helping to push up the price of gold and drive down the value of the dollar in foreign exchange markets with remarks about the Iranian oil crisis.

Mr. Blumenthal told a Senate Budget Committee hearing that Mr. Schlesinger's statement on Wednesday that the Iranian crisis was potentially more serious than the 1973-74 Arab oil embargo had caused unnecessarily exaggerated reactions in the stock and gold markets. He said Mr. Schlesinger's statement was "clearly the type of thing that causes people to run to gold."

While he was being criticised, Mr. Schlesinger said elsewhere in Congress that he did not expect Iran to resume oil exports for many months. "The gradual slide of Iran toward chaos is continuing," he said in response to a question. "I do not see at this juncture the restoration of exports for many months at best."

At the same time, the White House was handing out another rebuke to Mr. Carter's most controversial diplomat, U.N. envoy Andrew Young, for declaring at a press conference: "I'm willing to bet that Khomeini will be thought some kind of saint when we look to see what his ideas really mean."

Mr. Powell responded: "It is President Carter's view that the United States is not in the canonisation business." He added that Mr. Young "is not in a position to make such judgments."

Britons told to prepare for long strike by public service workers

LONDON, Feb. 9 (R)—Britons were under notice today to prepare for a long strike by public service workers who already have reduced hospitals to emergency-only services and closed hundreds of schools. And striking dustmen have let piles of rubbish mount in central London.

The more than one million low-paid public service workers are demanding pay rises of at least 16 per cent, almost twice the government offer of 8.8 per cent, and have threatened to strike for six months to get it.

As if to stress the government's intent to hold down inflation—if not by curbing wages then by controlling the money supply—the Bank of England yesterday announced an increase in the minimum lending rate to 14 per cent from 12.5 per cent. The rise was expected to soon translate into higher interest rates and hit workers getting home mortgages or financing new cars.

In addition to the strike-hit hospitals and schools, grave-diggers have left bodies unburied and some local government offices are closed, leaving documents untyped, unfiled and unposted. Water and sewerage workers have also threatened a strike, which could force the government to call out troops to avert a health crisis.

Adding more to the government's troubles was the threat of an all-out strike at the state-owned British Leyland car company.

About 20,000 workers at Leyland's Birmingham plant walked off the assembly line when they heard promised pay rises were called off because they had failed to reach productivity goals.

Other plants of Leyland, however, voted to continue work, and the final company-wide outcome will not be known until Monday.

Industrial nations share common concern of adequate fuel supply

LONDON, Feb. 9 (R)—Amid more signs of anxiety over the Iran crisis, industrial countries were said to be stepping up plans to save fuel.

Japan announced yesterday it would have to slow down its oil stockpiling programme to cover what the trade and industry ministry called a small shortfall in oil imports.

France has already said the Iran crisis has prompted it to accelerate its nuclear power programme to reduce dependence on imported oil.

United States Energy Secretary James Schlesinger warned recently that the Iranian oil shutdown had caused world problems and more could be expected next winter.

In Bonn, West German Economics Minister Otto Lamb-dorff said a worldwide rise in oil prices as a result of the Iranian situation could not be ruled out.

In Britain, several major oil companies announced reductions in crude oil supplies despite the country's North Sea oil deposits. British Energy Secretary Tony

Bevan has asked consumers to exercise restraint and said he hoped oil companies would not take on new business which might further deplete supplies.

British Petroleum Oil Company has said it will cut crude supplies by 45 per cent. Exxon Corporation is planning a ten per cent cut and the Royal Dutch Shell

unit, of Shell International, said in London yesterday it plans a 15 per cent across the board cutback from April 1.

In Toronto, Gulf Canada, the major Canadian buyer of Iranian crude oil said through supply manager James Holding: "Even if a reasonable political climate is resumed (in Iran), it will take two to three months to get oil production back to reasonable levels."

In the Bonn parliament, Count Lamb-dorff said that Saudi Arabia had stated it would do its best to make up the shortfall in Iranian oil supplies. But he stressed the need for energy conservation.

Iran was West Germany's top supplier of oil last year, providing 17.3 million tonnes or 18.1 per cent of the country's total supply. Saudi Arabia provided 14.6 million tonnes.

Though Iran has been supplying only eight per cent of France's oil imports, the interruption of supplies from this source has caused considerable concern.

The decision to speed up the construction of two nuclear power stations, in northern France, was taken at a restricted French cabinet meeting this week.

U.S. aid to Nicaragua terminated

WASHINGTON, Feb. 9 (R)—The United States announced yesterday that it was ending economic aid and military assistance to Nicaragua because of President Anastasio Somoza's rejection of a mediated solution to bitter civil strife in his country.

The State Department also said it was withdrawing 47 American government personnel from Nicaragua, reducing the U.S. presence there by more than half.

In addition, two development aid loans worth \$10.5 million were cancelled and no new loans will be concluded, State Department spokesman Hodding Carter said.

He said no new arms would be sold to Nicaragua through official or private channels. Military assistance was in fact suspended some months ago, but has now been terminated.

Spokesman Carter said the United States decided to reassess its relations with Nicaragua after General Somoza rejected a proposal by a three-nation mediating team for a political solution to the civil unrest.

Last December the United States, Guatemala and the Dominican Republic proposed a plebiscite under international administration and supervision. The Opposition Front accepted the proposal but General Somoza's governing Nationalist Liberal Party rejected it and mediation was suspended.

World News Briefs

Rhodesian bandits pose as guerrillas

SALISBURY, Feb. 9 (R)—Black bandits armed with real and imitation weapons and posing as nationalist guerrillas last night raided a Rhodesian tourist hotel, police and military authorities said. They burned down an African staff compound at the 16 Lodge Hotel in the Vumba Mountains of eastern Rhodesia, the premises and fired a shotgun at the white manager and slightly wounding the man, police said. As Rhodesia's guerrilla intensifies, and law and order crumbles in many parts of the country, it is becoming increasingly difficult to discern whether the bandits are genuine guerrillas, military sources said. Several have been staged by young blacks with imitation weapons as guerrillas, they said.

Greece, EEC discuss terms for membership

ATHENS, Feb. 9 (R)—Common Market Vice President Ntali today discussed with Greek Premier Constantine Karamanlis final terms for Greece's entry into the Community. Mr. Ntali arrived yesterday for a two-day visit, told reporters certain the treaty of accession between Greece and the EEC will be signed in the first half of this year. Greece and the other members reached an accord in Brussels last December on Greek entry. Greece has been an associate member of the EEC since 1961. The accord ended two years of negotiations. Greece expects to sign a treaty of accession in March of next year to become the tenth EEC member in 1981.

Italy ups jail term of Brigades leader

MILAN, Italy, Feb. 9 (R)—An appeal court has increased sentence on convicted Red Brigades guerrilla leader Renato Curcio from seven years to 12 years. Mr. Curcio, who masterminded the "war against the state" before his capture, denied hearing as a state trial and led his four co-defendants back to the courtroom. The sentence was imposed for possession of arms and attempting to kill a policeman during his arrest. It is already serving a 15-year term. It was not immediately clear whether the new sentence would run consecutively or concurrently with the 15-year term. He has also been sentenced to 18 months for praising the Red Brigades' murders of former Italian Prime Minister Aldo Moro and to one year for writing articles in a radical magazine urging workers to smash factory machines.

Da Vinci's "Last Supper" to be restored

MILAN, Italy, Feb. 9 (R)—Italy will spend \$600,000 on restoration of Leonardo da Vinci's mural "Last Supper" in the church where it is housed, Culture Minister Dario Antonicelli said yesterday. The Leonardo fresco has been touched up and often clumsily, countless times since the Renaissance, and is in a state of disrepair. But restoration has never been entirely abandoned. The mural has faded in parts and has flaked because of the

Zaire: Cardinal's home guarded following raid

BRUSSELS, Feb. 9 (R)—Police in Zaire are guarding the Archbishop of Kinshasa, Cardinal Joseph Malula, following a raid on his home by a gang of 20 armed men, a Belgian Catholic news agency reported today.

Members of the gang stormed into the cardinal's bedroom at one a.m. last Wednesday. They did not harm him but drove away with money, radio and television sets, and the cardinal's private car, the agency said.

The report came three days before the first batch of 250 crack Belgian paracommandos was due to leave for Zaire on what is officially described as a limited training mission.

The churchman was one of the first Africans to be made a cardinal. He was involved a few years ago in a test of strength with President Mobutu Sese Seko, who tried to curb the powers of the Catholic Church in Zaire, but the two men later settled their differences.

Senate committee divided over security guarantees

U.S. Congress delays Taiwan legislation

WASHINGTON, Feb. 9 (R)—President Carter's timetable for normalising diplomatic relations with communist China seemed likely to go awry today as Congress tried to work out security guarantees for Taiwan.

The administration agreed to exchange ambassadors on March 1 and had hoped by then to have legislation in place which would put U.S. relations with Taiwan on an unofficial footing.

But the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, divided over what security guarantees should be extended to the nationalists, yesterday put off action on drafting a bill until Feb. 20. The delay clouded hopes that the Senate could act on the bill before March 1 and there was virtually no likelihood that both the Senate and the House of Representatives could meet this deadline.

Yesterday Republican Senator Jesse Helms of North Carolina added to President Carter's problems by announcing that he would try to block Senate confirmation of Leonard Woodcock as the first U.S. ambassador to Peking in 30 years until the Senate settled the Taiwan issue.

Senator Helms was using a Senate courtesy rule that allows any member to hold up confirmation or legislation. But it was not clear how successful he would be in delaying the Woodcock confirmation. The conservative senator was the only member of the Foreign Relations Committee to cast a negative vote when the committee recommended 12-1 yesterday to confirm Mr. Woodcock.

A lively committee debate on Taiwanese security guarantees is expected when the Senate returns to work after a Lincoln's birthday recess next week.

The Carter administration insists that no guarantee is necessary because China doesn't have the military muscle to attack Taiwan and is too wedded to modernisation to risk all by offending the United States and other Western nations it needs to acquire technology.

But the committee is certain to add a security guarantee to the administration's bill that would enable trade and cultural ties with Taiwan to be handled by a non-government corporation.

Senator Jacob Javits, a New York Republican, is pushing for strong language asserting U.S. determination to provide Taiwan with sufficient defensive arms and to consider an armed attack against Taiwan a common danger to the Taiwanese people and the United States.

Other members of the committee urge that the United States should not be put in the position of having to make an automatic response for the indefinite future. Still others support the administration's view that no security language at all is needed.

British oil: A little too late?

By the end of this year Britain will be self-sufficient in oil. But it will not be in time, and there will not be enough revenue from it for the government to use it as a trump card in the forthcoming elections, argues Financial Times commentator Jeremy Morgan.

Britain is going to have to hang on a bit longer before it reaps the full economic benefits of its much-heralded North Sea oil. Two highly respected British stockbrokers have recently issued forecasts suggesting that, this year at least, the U.K. does not stand to gain quite as much on the balance of payments from North Sea oil income as was quite cheerfully and confidently predicted not so long ago.

However, the news is not all gloomy, by any means. Most important of all, 1979 is still going to be the year when the U.K. finally breaks even on its oil, confirming the predictions that have been made at regular intervals over the years.

For the first time in more than ten years, the British will earn more from their oil than they will pay out on developing and exploit-

ing it—either by exporting some of the oil, or more importantly, because of the big savings in costly oil imports that will come with increased domestic production of oil and gas.

Stockbrokers Hoare Govett of London, in their latest quarterly report on North Sea oil, have predicted that oil will make a net contribution of £1.13 billion to Britain's current account during the whole of this year, compared to a loss of £360 million in 1978, when the cost of developing offshore oilfields was still high.

But the impact of North Sea oil on the British economy is now thought unlikely to be as significant this year as was once hoped. Wood, Mackenzie, the

respected brokers in Edinburgh, have just coolly chopped £1 billion from their previous estimate of the overall North Sea oil benefit to this year's balance of payments.

A year ago, the firm's experts said that the gain would be running at an annual rate of around £4 billion by the end of this year. But now, they think about £3 bil-

lion this year is more likely, because of reduced production estimates and higher operating and development costs at British offshore oil fields.

Furthermore, it is now believed that the day when Britain can enjoy a £5 billion per year North Sea oil bonus to the balance of payments will not arrive until the

middle of 1984—at least two years later than last year's forecast had suggested.

All this is certainly bleak news for Prime Minister James Callaghan at the beginning of what is unavoidably going to be an election year. For some time, it has looked as if his biggest and brightest vote-catcher would be a somewhat debatable claim that the worst of Britain's economic woes were now over.

North Sea oil, and its increasingly favourable impact on the balance of payments, was going to be the government's electoral trump card. After all, it was not so long ago that predictions were freely bandied about that the economic benefits of the oil would begin to filter through in 1978—and virtually guarantee a clean balance sheet this year.

While the latest projections are hardly disastrous, they are probably sufficiently unexciting to set minds wondering just how big a plus North Sea oil is going to be, when it will arrive and how long it is going to last.

If anything, it could be argued for this and other reasons that both reports might very well turn out to have been good news for the nation in the long run.

For a start, a rate of growth in British oil output which is slower than the government originally hoped for might carry less risk of overheating the economy at a time when the world is entering yet another recession.

Smaller oil revenues might also help minimise the temptation to governments of all shades of political opinion to buy themselves out of the trough. And a more gradual and less ambitious expansion in oil

production would obviously stretch out Britain's highly finite oil and gas reserves—apart from coincidentally offering the opportunity to improve extraction rates from existing fields.

Forgetting their implications for Mr. Callaghan and his political advisers for the moment, both reports in fact make quite reassuring reading.

Both regard 1979 as the year when North Sea oil will at last provide tangible economic benefits for Britain, after years of massive capital expenditure. Hoare Govett suggests that the cost of equipping offshore oilfields in British waters peaked last year at £2.35 billion and is now declining, to £2.12 billion this year and £593 million by 1983.

Meanwhile, oil's net contribution to the current account is expected to double this year's total in 1980—when the oil revenue impact is forecast to total £2.64 billion—as it rapidly climbs to a projected £10.38 billion by 1983.

There is no suggestion that Britain will not achieve the widely hoped-for target of oil self-sufficiency either late this year or in early 1980, despite lower production.

However, Wood, Mackenzie does warn that the cost of operating, rather than developing, North Sea oilfields will continue to rise—from an estimated overall total of \$1.5 billion this year to around \$2.8 billion in 1985. Previous estimates have pitched operating costs at \$1.2 billion this year, and \$2.5 billion in six years' time.

Against that, Britain's high grade crude oil is currently fetch-

ing prices somewhat higher than had been forecast—and can expect to carry on doing so in the near future, particularly if political unrest in Iran continues to disrupt supplies from that country.

Although North Sea "spot" oil prices have come off the top in recent weeks—late last year, quotes of \$16 or \$16.50 a barrel were reported in Rotterdam, compared with a 1978 price of \$12.70 a barrel on OPEC's Saudi Arabian light crude market price—they are still quite a bit higher than the experts had forecast.

Wood, Mackenzie, at present estimate that prices for North Sea crude are settling down at between \$15.30 and \$15.80 a barrel for the first quarter of this year, compared with OPEC's revised marker of \$13.33 a barrel. The average North Sea oil price for the year as a whole is pitched at around \$15.50 a barrel.

With North Sea drilling activity slipping into notable decline last year, it now seems highly unlikely that some of the more ambitious targets set by the government for U.K. oil output during the next couple of years will be met.

Estimates vary, but it is suggested that drilling activity last year declined by between a third and 40 per cent compared with the peak years of 1974-77. Ultimately, this might not matter very much—except that development costs are almost bound to escalate over the years, meaning that delays could turn out to be rather expensive.

However, none of this will mean that Britain is likely to find itself short of oil during at least the next five years. About half the oil

reserves from existing fields are expected to be extracted by 1983. By then, however, the Government will be running about 10 per cent higher than domestic demands will demand.

For what it is worth, the government has already a way to admitting that it targets for oil output expectations for future years from the North Sea, but the over-optimistic side.

Towards the end of the Minister of State for Dr. Dickson Mabo acknowledged that 1978 oil unlikely to total more than 10 million tonnes of oil—although official estimate for anything up to 65 million tonnes.

The expectation has been revised down to 10 million tonnes to between 90 million tonnes. By bonuses are still expected through next year.

Originally, Whitehall had not expected any level of output for next year's output forecast to remain at 95 million tonnes in 1979, the forecast adjusted upwards to 110 million tonnes for 1980, the prospect for 1981 made even more optimistic latest official estimates.

Compared with an forecast of 105 million tonnes, 1983 is now seen to be 145 million tonnes.

For the British people, likely to prove a whole lot more than never, or even a little better, there will not be much to cheer about about the oil situation. The only consolation is that the oil will be there for the next five years. About half the oil

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